



MUNICIPAL NEWS
TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
P. O. Box 246 • 310 Institute Street
Smithfield, Virginia 23431



Volume 24

Phone(757) 365-4200

Fourth Quarter 2004



Smithfield Water System Status - Straight from the Tap

The Town of Smithfield has a proud history of providing clean, safe water for over 90 years. Our ground water system pumps water from deep wells in the Upper and Middle Potomac Aquifers, and we distribute to you our customers. This natural water has been recognized as "The Best Tasting Water in Virginia" and one of the top five best tasting in the country.

Unfortunately, this wonderful tasting water also has too much of a good thing- fluoride. For the past year, the fluoride levels rose above the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level (PMCL) of 4.0 mg/l. Thus, the town has been negotiating a Consent Order with the Virginia Department of Health that will require a formal water treatment process for the first time in the town's history.

First, let me assure you that your water is safe to drink and to use with these elevated levels of fluoride. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the long term exposure and consumption has the potential of formation of Dental Fluorosis (mottled teeth). The primary concern is for children less than nine years old who are developing permanent teeth.

Also, although there is no EPA established standard for sodium in drinking water, please note that our samples indicated last year an average of 215 mg/l. This may be a concern if your physician has placed you on a moderately or severely restricted sodium diet.

As with the fluoride content this is nothing new or dramatically different than it has ever been. We simply want to make sure all our customers are informed so you can make educated decisions regarding drinking water. Unfortunately, detailed water content information on many other alternative drinking water sources is not published or regulated. You know at a very detailed level the contents within a public water system.

The town sends out an annual water quality report each summer to all of our customers. The information above and more is consistently conveyed this way, and the town will continue to send out quarterly fluoride "violation" notices to you until the new water treatment plant is operational in a couple of years.

Regarding future water treatment, a Reverse Osmosis plant is recommended to be located on the town's South Church Street property adjacent to the existing well and elevated water storage tank and the rescue squad. Instead of the five wells in use today, we would utilize one primary well and have another back up production well at the same location. Other distribution system improvements will be necessary, and the estimated capital cost for all of this work is presently \$3.9 million.

Concurrent with these improvements, the town will also be expanding our water withdrawal permitted capacity. The goal is to have a comprehensive solution in place and improvements to our system that

Smithfield Water System (Continued) . . .

will serve the community for at least the next ten to fifteen years. The town is also at this time undertaking a study of our water and sewer rates to quantify how these upcoming capital and operating costs will impact the rates we must charge. Increased rates will be required, however, the town desires to keep our future rates at or below state averages and competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS – YES, NO AND MAYBE

Yes – At the intersection of Benns Church Boulevard (Route 10 Bypass) and Cypress Run Drive, now warranted by the new shopping center development.

No – At the intersection of South Church Street and Smithfield Boulevard/Heptinstall Avenue. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) continues to monitor this location at the town's request, but it remains unwarranted by state standards.

Maybe – At the intersection of Benns Church Boulevard (Route 10 Bypass) and Gumwood Drive/Cypress Crossing. This intersection remains under evaluation by VDOT due to the new commercial development on both sides of the boulevard.

2004 REAL ESTATE TAXES 2004 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES 2005 VEHICLE LICENSE DECALS

Please remember that all **2004 real estate and personal property taxes** are due by **December 5, 2004**. Since this date falls on a Sunday, the deadline will be extended to **CLOSE OF BUSINESS (5:00 p.m.)** on December 6, 2004. A **minimum** \$10.00 or 10% penalty (not to exceed the assessed value of the property) will then be added to any unpaid balances. For personal property, please note that penalty is applied **separately to each item** on the tax ticket and is calculated on the assessed tax, not the net tax after tax relief. On January 1, 2005, interest will accrue on unpaid balances including penalty at the rate of 10% per annum. If you do not receive your annual tax bill by mid-November or you are new to the town, please contact the Treasurer's office at 365-4200. Also, if you expect your real estate tax to be paid by your mortgage company, but the bill comes to your home, you will need to contact your mortgage company to make payment arrangements. Mortgage companies must make a request in writing each year before the Town will forward the bill to them.

Vehicle License Decals will go on sale **January 17, 2005** and are due on **February 15, 2005**. The cost is \$20 per vehicle. If your personal property taxes are current, you will receive a vehicle license certificate in the mail that you must return with payment in order to receive your decals. The certificate must also be completed and signed by the taxpayer to indicate whether the vehicle was mainly used for business or personal travel. This certification must be completed if the taxpayer is to qualify for state personal property tax relief. If your personal property taxes are delinquent, you will not receive a mailer and you must make payment on your personal property taxes before you may purchase a decal. If you are a new resident, you will need to bring a current registration for each vehicle to the Town Treasurer's office in order to purchase a decal. If you move into the Town after the deadline date, you will need to purchase a decal within 10 days of garaging the vehicle in the Town limits.

Military Personnel whose home of record is not Virginia are exempt from Virginia personal property taxes, so they will not receive a vehicle license certificate in the mail. They must contact the Town Treasurer's office to purchase a decal, and they must present a current LES in order to qualify for the reduced rate of \$3.00 per vehicle. If their home of record is Virginia, military personnel are subject to personal property taxes and will be required to pay \$20 per vehicle decal as required of all other town residents.



ENJOY THE FALL BOUNTY!

Saturday, October 16th & November 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bank of Southside Virginia, Main Street, Smithfield

Vegetables, Plants, Meats, Jellies, Birdhouses, Small Livestock & More!

For more information call the Chamber of Commerce (757) 357-3502

STREET SWEEPING

The Town of Smithfield has contracted Clean Sweep to begin the annual street sweeping Monday, November 8th through November 11th. This cleaning schedule will depend on the weather conditions, however please mark your calendars and try to leave the curbsides clear of vehicles to allow for a more thorough cleaning. Thank you for your assistance.

SAFE TRICK OR TREATING

Neighborhood Trick or Treating activities are scheduled to take place on Halloween evening, Sunday, October 31st, 2004. The Town Code does requires this activity to take place between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and is limited to persons 12 years of age or younger.

Parents some tips for safe trick or treating: 1) check the candy wrappers for tampering before allowing the candy to be ingested. 2) Make sure costumes do not restrict movement, sight, or represent tripping hazards. 3) While walking around the neighborhood carry a flashlight to help alert drivers of your location.

Have a safe and fun Halloween – If you will be driving during that evening, please watch out for the children!

Meals Tax Referendum

Will be on the November Ballot

Citizens will have the opportunity to "lessen the future tax load" on real estate holdings by voting "yes" on a referendum in the November election to implement a meals tax (tax on restaurant food and beverages) within the County boundaries. This tax would be paid by restaurant consumers to include "travelers" through the County who receive public safety and transportation benefits at the cost of Isle of Wight citizens.

Currently the meals tax exists in both the Towns of Windsor and Smithfield, as well as all of the cities and towns of the Hampton Roads community. The meals tax would help to diversify the County's limited taxing streams (as recommended recently by Bond Rating Agencies), in addition to lessening the County's tax dependence on real property owners.

For more information call the Isle of Wight County Department of Budget and Finance at (757) 365-6307.

PLEASE NOTE: The above does not propose an increase of the Town of Smithfield's existing meals tax.



SMITHFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

New Members

We are always actively recruiting new members. Our call volume continues to increase and the need for volunteers continues. If you are interested in becoming a part of our important community service, please contact Chief Buddy Jones at 357-3231.

Fire Prevention and Safety Information

Daylight savings time ends on October 31 this year. When you set your clocks back, remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector and push the test button so that everyone in your family will recognize the sound. We want everyone to have a safe and fun Halloween this year.

Fire Safety week is October 3 - 9. This date coincides with the Chicago fire of October 8, 1871, when 17,400 buildings burned and 250 people lost their lives. The National Fire Protection Association remembers the great Chicago fire by observing fire prevention week to coincide with this date. Take the time to review your fire escape plan with your family during this time and review with your children what was taught to them at school about fire safety. Every year we visit all preschool and elementary school children up to grade three to teach them fire safety essentials.

Please be careful when burning leaves this fall and be considerate toward your neighbors. Do not burn on windy days, or when the ground is extremely dry.

Recent Activities

Our Fire Prevention Division has received our 'Sparky the Fire Safety Dog' suit to assist in teaching young children fire safety.

The Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department Responded to 179 calls for help last quarter. Of these we had 8 structure fires, 4 vehicle fires, and 16 fires of other types. The Department also responded to 57 rescue and or medical calls and reported 14 false alarms for the same period.

Our fire department is currently operating under the Isle of Wight Rescue Squad's medical license in order to respond to all auto accident calls when there is an injury involved. Our E.M.T.s will be able to treat patients on the scene in conjunction with, or until rescue squad personnel arrive.

Fire Department Family Spotlight

This quarter's spotlight shines on Junior Firefighter Charles Jones. Charles is a member of our Explorer Scout program for persons age 16 to 18. Charles is a lifelong resident of Smithfield and is the son of David and Michele. All three are proud members of Bacon's Castle Baptist Church in Surry. Charles' father, David, owns David Jones Contractors and mother, Michele, trained and worked

with K-9 search and rescue dogs in Hampton for nine years.

Michele currently volunteers for the Isle of Wight Sheriff's Department. Charles, now 18, is pursuing a degree in pastoral theology at Atlantic Baptist Bible College. When he is not at school or participating with the fire department, Charles enjoys hunting with the Moonlight Hunt Club with his deerhounds.



Pictured above: Fire Prevention Member Trish Warren poses in our new "Sparky the fire dog" suit.

Pictured to Right: Fire Fighter Charles Jones and Family



**TOWN OF SMITHFIELD
FALL COMMUNITY CLEANUP DAYS**

Now is the perfect time to clean up your house, yard, and garage of all litter, trash and junk! BFI will provide free pick up service for your old furniture, appliances, carpets, **yard debris that is 3" in diameter or less and is 4 feet long or less and must be bundled, also leaves or other yard trimmings must be bagged**, etc., free of charge for Town residents between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM on the following Saturdays:

Date of Service and Area of Town

For more information please call Smithfield town hall at 365-4200.

Saturday, October 23:

All areas north and west of Cypress Creek and the Pagan River (including River Oaks, Pinewood Heights, Goose Hill Creek, Jericho Estates, Cypress Creek, Riverview, Lakeside, Downtown areas, Jersey Park, West Main Street, etc.)

Saturday, October 30:

All areas on the south side of town including both sides of South Church Street and east of Cypress Creek (including Waterford Oaks, Willow Oaks, Aspen Woods, Scots Landing, Pinehurst, Grimesland, etc.)

Saturday, November 6:

All areas east and north of South Church Street and both sides of Battery Park Road (includes Rising Star, Moone Plantation, Smithfield Forest, John Rolfe Estates, Croatan Landing, Moonefield, Pagan Point, Red Point Heights, Deer Run, etc.)

Everything to be picked up must be at the street **no later than 6:30 AM**. The trucks won't be able to drive into your yard to pick up heavy items. Nothing will be picked up after 11:00 AM.

*****PLEASE NOTE: BFI WILL NOT PICK UP YARD DEBRIS (larger than 3" in diameter or longer than 4 feet), TREE LIMBS, OR STRUCTURAL DEBRIS SUCH AS USED LUMBER, ROOFING, SIDING, ETC.***

OTHER ITEMS THAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP: TIRES, PAINTS, BATTERIES, GAS CYCLINDERS, OIL, ASBESTOS, ANIMAL CARCASSES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

NOTE: If you have household hazardous waste you can dispose of it free of charge at the Isle of Wight Transfer Station, 13191 Foursquare Road, Smithfield on the third Friday of each month, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You may recycle used motor oil at this location. They also take paint, pesticides, antifreeze, fuels, hobby supplies, insecticides, herbicides, paint thinners, solvents, fertilizers, swimming pool chemicals, household batteries and cleaners.

*You're invited to the 37th Annual
CHAMBER DAY TRADE SHOW
OCTOBER 20, 2004
3:30 – 7:00 p.m.*

The Smithfield Center
220 N Church St - Smithfield
\$20.00 admission includes
Delicious BBQ by 3 P's Cooking Team
Door Prizes * Give-aways * Music
For Exhibit Booth information or purchase your admission
tickets call Terry Honig 357-3502



Town Hall Contact Information

Peter M. Stephenson, *Town Manager*

Phone # (757) 365-4200

Fax # (757) 365-9508

Email: **pstephenson@smtihfieldva.gov**

Website: www.co.smithfield.va.us

William T. Hopkins, III, *Director of Planning*

Engineering and Public Works

W. Russell Batten, *Superintendent of Public Utilities*

I.N. (Buddy) Jones, III, *Chief of Smithfield Volunteer*

Fire Department

Ellen D. Minga, *Town Treasurer*

Mark A. Marshall, *Chief of Police*

Sharon L. Thomas, *Town Clerk*

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

The town does provide a Guide to Municipal Services booklet to new residents as well as by request. Please email the Town Clerk for a copy at **stthomas@smithfieldva.gov** or call (757) 365-4200.

If you own or are thinking of purchasing one of the lovely historic homes in Smithfield, please contact Planner / GIS Coordinator John Dahlgren at **jdahlgren@smithfieldva.gov** or call (757) 365-4200 to inquire about any special regulations that may apply.

Do you have questions about building a fence, deck, addition, or noticed something that may be a code violation such as tall grass, debris, or inoperable vehicle? If so contact Planning Technician Carlton Ray Ransom at **cransom@smithfieldva.gov** or call (757) 365-4200.

For any questions, concerns or comments regarding your tax statements, vehicle decals, or business licenses please contact Treasurer Office Manager Barbara Hunter at (757) 365-4200.

If you are a new customer and need to apply or inquire about water and sewer service please contact Water and Sewer Clerk Joyce Eaton at (757) 365-4200.

Normal Business Hours for Town Hall is Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Boykin's Tavern has Full Slate of Activities Planned

Article provided by Smithfield/IOW CVB

The staff of Boykin's Tavern, has a full slate of activities planned during the next few months. If you're new to the area, or someone who has lived here for a long time but haven't visited the tavern yet, don't wait any longer!

On October 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., join us for "All About Herbs," an annual event presented by master gardener Nancy Franklin, an herb specialist. Nancy will be giving a two-hour slide show from 10 a.m. to noon on herbs. Program admission is only \$5 and tickets can be purchased at the door. The master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and will have a variety of fall perennials for sale. Also, Heirloom Botanica of Suffolk will be selling garden accessories, plants and decorative items for your home. Tours of the tavern are free.

In November, a new exhibit, "Death Becomes Us" opens at the tavern. An upstairs bed chamber has been transformed into a Victorian funeral scene, complete with an embalming table, period funeral drapery, a collection of 1860's mourning jewelry, clothing and accessories, an 1889 embalmers manual, period embalming makeup and photographs of local gravesites. The 'deadly' exhibit may be a little too morbid for some. Others might find it fascinating.

On Friday, Dec. 10, catch the holiday spirit as we "Light up the Tavern," from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We'll light the Yule Log and sing Christmas carols and serve hot apple cider and homemade cookies. Holly sprigs will be available to "toss your cares away" in the fire. The tavern will be decorated with fresh greenery and period decorations reflecting the Colonial and Victorian periods. On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Isle of Wight County Militia will be giving tours of the tavern. Learn about Major Frances Boykin's, who fought alongside George Washington during the Revolutionary War. On Sunday, our Junior Docents will present a program about Colonial toys. This hands-on exhibit will focus on toys children played with during the Colonial period.

The Girl Scout Council of the Colonial Coast have added Boykin's Tavern to their list of historic places to visit. The tavern has developed a patch program for the Girl Scouts. If you are a Girl Scout leader and would like to participate in the Boykin's Tavern Patch program, please call the Tavern at 365-9771 to set up a tour.



The Smithfield & Isle of Wight visitor center has a new and much improved website, www.smithfield-virginia.com. Events, attractions, shops, dining and more are featured on the site. If you have friends or family visiting Smithfield, please refer them to our website. If you would like to learn more about upcoming events in Smithfield and Isle of Wight County, subscribe to The Ham Town News, a bi-weekly newsletter. Email Cathy Kurchinski, public relations manager, at cathyk@visi.net.

Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Qualification levels have been increased

A deferral or exemption of real estate tax may be available to qualifying low income property owners 65 years of age or older or to those who are totally disabled.

The allowable level for the combined household income of the dwelling owners has been **raised to \$30,000**. The Allowable level of net combined financial worth of the owner and spouse, excluding the value of the dwelling and land **raised to \$100,000**.

As such, the application deadline for the Fiscal Year '04 - '05 (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005) Tax Relief Program has been **extended to October 15, 2005**. Applications must be renewed on an annual basis. Please note that following the FY '04 - '05 application extension to October 15, 2005, future applications must be filed annually by May 1.

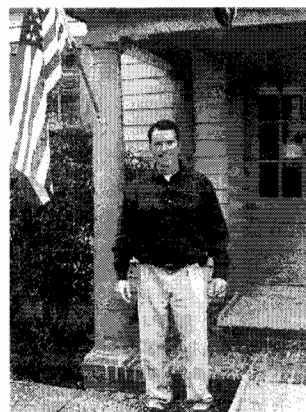
For any questions or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact the commissioner of Revenue's Office at 365-6222.

CHANGING FACES AT TOWN HALL

This quarter the Smithfield Town Hall family spotlight is on our newest Council Member, Tom Ivy. Tom has been a member of the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department for almost seven years. He is a volunteer firefighter, Explorer post leader, and is a former training officer for the fire department.

Tom was born in Key West, Florida. He and his wife Sue have been residents of Smithfield since August 1997. They have two children Chris (7) and Kelly (5) that attend Hardy Elementary School. Tom is currently employed for Cryovac Division Sealed Air Corporation as a National Account Manager. Tom is also preparing for MBA school next year.

Some of Tom's hobbies include duck hunting, fishing, riding his hog (Harley Davidson), travel, reading, teaching Sunday school, painting, stamp collecting, gardening, boating, volleyball and playing with his kids.



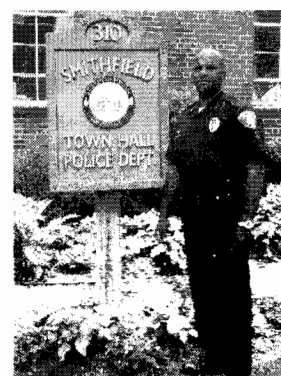
Promotions within the Police Department . . .

The Town of Smithfield is proud to announce the promotions

of: Captain – Alonzo Howell, Lieutenant (Patrol) – James Clarke,

Sergeant – Martin Roach, Sergeant – Mark Whitefleet,

Sergeant – Julian Evans.



Pictured Above: Captain Alonzo Howell

Planning Department New Staff Members . . .

We would like to introduce our two new Planning Department

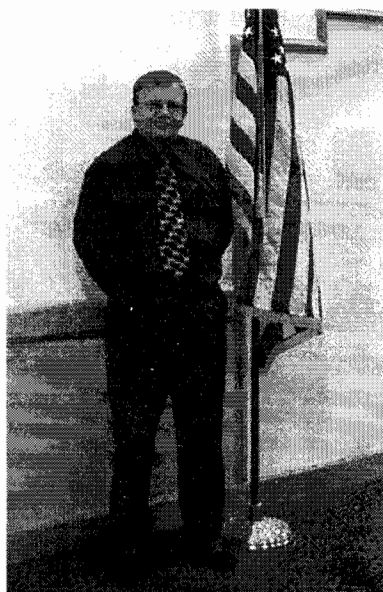
staff members. Mr. John Dahlgren has been hired to fill the

Planner/GIS Coordinator position. John holds a Bachelor of Arts

Degree in Economics from Christopher Newport University and

a Masters Degree in Political Science from in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has over five years of planning and GIS experience in both the private and public sector. We

also welcome Mr. Carlton Ray Ransom who has been hired for the new Planning Technician position. Ray holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Norfolk State University and he is currently taking



*Pictured above: John Dahlgren,
Planner / GIS Coordinator*

graduate coursework in Urban Affairs at Norfolk State University. Both John and Ray began employment with the town on September 27th. Welcome to the team!!

Departing staff members . . .

Our good wishes for the future go to departing staff members Officer Lorré Etheridge, Sergeant Mark Whitefleet, and Town Planner Jeff Holland. As they move on with their careers, we hope the best for them and sincerely thank them for their dedicated service to our community.



*Pictured above: Carlton Ray
Ransom, Planning Technician*

The Smithfield Center

2nd Annual Home & Garden Show Schedule

Friday, March 11

1 P.M. — 7 P.M.

Saturday, March 12

10 A.M. — 6 P.M.

Sunday, March 13

Noon — 4 P.M.

Tickets

Advance Tickets

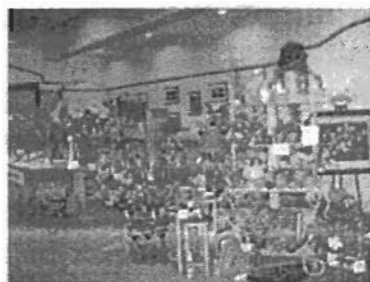
\$5 per-one day

\$10 for the three-day show

At the Door Price

\$7.00 per one-day

\$12 for the three day show



For more information:

Smithfield Center
220 N. Church St.
Smithfield, VA 23430

Phone: 757 356-9939

Fax: 757 365-4819

Linda Chavies or Amy Musick



March 11 - 13

"The Four Seasons in the Home & Garden"

The 2nd Annual Smithfield Home & Garden Show will feature vendors, landscape exhibits, educational programs, food and fun. Programs and feature presenters will highlight the three day show. Our center display hosts award winning landscapers. Friday, March 11th will kick-off our show with a Senior Citizens day. Food and special programs for the kids will be presented on Saturday. So, bring the family and spend the day in Smithfield.

Town of Smithfield
P. O. Box 246
Smithfield, VA 23431

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

(All Town board meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at 220 North Church Street at the Smithfield Center.)

1st Tuesday - Town Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday - Planning Commission

3rd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. Board of Zoning Appeals and 7:30 p.m. Board of Historic & Architectural Review

Last Monday & Tuesday of each month - Town Council Committee Meetings 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 p.m. will be held at the Smithfield Center, Suites C & D. Stay tuned to Smithfield Channel 6 for any meeting changes and for important informational updates. **Also click on the Smithfield Channel 6 link on the town's website: www.co.smithfield.va.us to see more information.**

HOLIDAYS – TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

October 11th – Columbus Day

November 11th – Veterans Day

November 25th & 26th – Thanksgiving Day

December 24th – Christmas Holiday

December 31st – New Years Day

Town Council Members:

James B. Chapman, Mayor

Daniel L. Smith, Vice-Mayor

Kaye H. Brown

Harry G. Dashiell, Jr.

Wendy B. Dean

David M. Hare

Tom R. Ivy

Planning Commission Members:

Daniel L. Smith, Chairman

Lee E. Winslett, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Dr. Herb Bevan

James B. Brown

Delores Cahoon

Thomas F. Hearn

Virginia F. Smith